

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON DIVISION

IN RE: AMERICAN MEDICAL SYSTEMS, INC.,
PELVIC REPAIR SYSTEM
PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION

MDL No. 2325

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:

Frances Thom, et al. v. American Medical Systems, Inc.
Civil Action No. 2:15-cv-08324

MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER

Pending before the court is defendant, American Medical Systems, Inc.'s ("AMS") Motion to Dismiss with Prejudice. [ECF No. 9]. The plaintiffs have not responded, and the deadline for responding has expired. Thus, this matter is ripe for my review. For the reasons stated below, the motion is **GRANTED**.

AMS's Motion arises from this court's Order [ECF No. 8], entered on March 21, 2017, denying AMS's first Motion to Dismiss with Prejudice for failure to serve a Plaintiff Fact Sheet ("PFS") in compliance with Pretrial Order ("PTO") # 223. In reaching this decision, I relied on *Wilson v. Volkswagen of America, Inc.*, 561 F.2d 494 (4th Cir. 1977), in which the Fourth Circuit identified four factors that a court must consider when reviewing a motion to dismiss on the basis of noncompliance with discovery. *See* Order at 4–6 [ECF No. 8] (applying the *Wilson* factors to the plaintiffs' case).¹ Concluding that the first three factors weighed in favor of sanctions as

¹ The *Wilson* factors are as follows: (1) Whether the noncomplying party acted in bad faith; (2) the amount of prejudice his noncompliance caused his adversary, which necessarily includes an inquiry into the materiality of the evidence he failed to produce; (3) the need for deterrence of the particular sort of noncompliance; and (4) the effectiveness of less drastic sanctions. *Mut. Fed. Sav. & Loan Ass'n v. Richards & Assocs., Inc.*, 872 F.2d 88, 92 (4th Cir. 1989) (citing *Wilson*, 561 F.2d at 503–06).

requested by AMS, I nevertheless declined to award the requested sanction of dismissal with prejudice because it would offend the court's duty under *Wilson's* fourth factor, which is to consider the effectiveness of lesser sanctions. In recognition of this duty, I gave the plaintiffs a final chance to comply with the deadlines set forth in PTO # 223. I afforded them 30 days from the entry of the Order to submit to AMS a completed PFS, with the caveat that failure to do so may result in dismissal of AMS as a defendant in their case upon motion by AMS. Despite this warning, the plaintiffs have again failed to comply with this court's orders and did not provide AMS with a PFS within the 30-day period. Consequently, AMS moved to dismiss with prejudice.

Because the less drastic sanction instituted against the plaintiffs has had no effect on their compliance with and response to this court's discovery orders, which they have continued to blatantly disregard, I find that dismissing AMS is now appropriate. For the reasons explained in my March 21, 2017 Order [ECF No. 8], it is **ORDERED** that the defendant's Motion to Dismiss [ECF No. 9] is **GRANTED**, and AMS is **DISMISSED with Prejudice**.

The court **DIRECTS** the Clerk to send a copy of this Order to counsel of record and to any unrepresented party.

ENTER: June 20, 2017



JOSEPH R. GOODWIN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE